

North Ugandan swamps for the sole Ugandan endemic, Fox's Weaver (*Ploceus spekeoides*). Uganda also has 30 Important Bird Areas (IBA's) identified with all 10 national parks qualifying for this status, plus 7 Forest Reserves and 2 Wetland Reserves. Efforts are under way to enlist the support of local people for formal protection for the 10 IBAs without protection.

The atlas highlights distribution changes via informative tables drawing attention to declines in fish-eating birds such as Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) and Fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*), and to worrying declines in Palearctic migrants, particularly the less common species such as Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*). This is a disturbing trend worthy of careful future monitoring. Increases have involved largely commensal species which can exploit degraded habitats, for instance the Marabou (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) is a recent colonist of Kampala!

The atlas is an innovative milestone for East African ornithology, provides a great baseline for future work and neatly summarizes the status of each species. Given the social and political problems which Uganda has so recently faced, it is a remarkable achievement, and gives invaluable data for conservation purposes. Given the current demographic explosion, careful planning and protection of key sites is vital and this work will be an exceptional resource tool. The authors are congratulated and every library or birder with African interests should possess a copy of this book.—Highly recommended.—PHIL GREGORY, Cassowary House, P. O. Box 387, Kuranda, Queensland 4881, Australia; e-mail: sicklebill@optusnet.com.au

CAPTIVE RAPTOR MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION. By Richard Naisbitt and Peter Holz. Hancock House, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. 2004: 168 pp., 107 color photographs, 11 black and white photographs, 80 line drawings and sketches. ISBN: 0-88839-490-X. \$39.95 (hardbound).—Located at the migratory bottleneck at Eilat, Israel, at the northern edge of the combined North African deserts of the Sahel, Sahara, and Sinai, I have to contend with several 10s of raptors every spring that have suc-

ceeded to make the crossing successfully but that are too emaciated to go any further or blunder into human structures. During spring migration we are called on a daily basis to the tall hotels and the highest buildings to collect birds found by caring citizens and which have a wide range of injuries. The lack of a proper veterinarian in a radius of several 100s of kilometers has forced the staff of the International Birding & Research Centre in Eilat to rehabilitate as many as 300 raptors a season with absolutely no help from the outside. This has forced the dedicated staff to rely heavily on their own experience, gained by trial-and-error in the field, and books published on how to do it right.

There are several good books on the market that address the subject appropriately. However, the problems with them are that they are either too costly for a hand-to-mouth NGO, or are too technical for field use. Hence, I was skeptical when asked to review a copy of this book. It has taken more than one year to review the book because I decided to first use it in the field and to see how practical and useful it really might be.

The book is large, 85-by-110 mm, and hardbound. I found this to be an advantage in the field, especially on windy days. The writing is large and the illustrations are clean and clear. There are several 'boxed' tips and information that make the work easier for the person handling the bird. An example is on page 26 where there are checklists for when you initially receive the raptor—how to check for obvious injuries, what one should look for, and the proper procedures for examining the raptor. However, the book has two distinct sections that are inter-mingled.

Chapter one introduces the reader to the basics of raptor foraging ecology. This gives those who are not familiar with raptor ecology an idea of their functional capabilities. Chapter two dives into the subject of the injured raptor—how to collect and transport, housing, rehabilitation, and aviary exercise. This chapter also address the problems of dealing with orphaned raptors, their food, behavioral development, and re-introduction. Chapter three is dedicated to releasing rehabilitated raptors and chapter four to monitoring them after release. I found the section reviewing injuries especially useful, and built an aviary to ex-

ercise rehabilitated birds based on the recommendations. It has worked well for more than 100 raptors in the past 6 months.

Chapter five is important if there are any raptors that need care for extended periods of time. The chapter deals with beak and feather care, and housing of raptors. Chapter eight deals with raptor medicine and addresses soft-tissue and orthopedic injuries, ocular trauma, poisoning, and a variety of other problems. Chapter nine deals with the dietary requirements and the recommended body mass for several dozens of species of diurnal and nocturnal raptors.

In chapters 6, 7, and 10 the book takes a turn I was not expecting—it becomes a guide

to basic falconry. This is a pity because the same publisher has covered falconry extensively in many other books and here is an add-on that has spoiled the effect of caring for wildlife that was broadcast in the other chapters.

On the whole, we found this book to be instructive in identifying problems with raptors brought to our center. This book will be good for beginning falconers and those who deal with wild raptor rehabilitation in places around the globe where veterinarians are a luxury and a lot of the work has to be done by the layman or field biologist.—REUVEN YOSEF, Director, International Birding & Research Center—Eilat, P. O. Box 774, Eilat 88106, Israel; e-mail: ryosef@eilatcity.co.il